

# PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Wisconsin  
(608) 264-5158  
TTY (608) 264-5006

---

For Immediate Release

November 9, 2005

Contact Person for Federal Cases

Timothy M. O'Shea  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

## **FORTY-SIX HUNTERS CHARGED IN COMMERCIAL GUIDING CASE INVOLVING ILLEGAL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTING**

**Press Conference to be held at 12:00 noon, Thursday, November 10, 2005  
National Guard Armory, 1350 Peebles Drive,  
Richland Center, Wisconsin**

### Overview

Madison, Wisconsin -- Charges against forty-six hunters from eleven different states have been filed in state and federal Courts following a two-year investigation into illegal white-tailed deer and turkey hunting in southwest Wisconsin. In connection with interviews and six search warrants executed across the United States, officers seized 30 mounted trophy deer alleged to have been illegally taken along with numerous rifles and compound bows.

The investigation, conducted jointly by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wardens and United States Fish and Wildlife Service agents, focused on Blue River Outfitters (BRO), Blue River, Wisconsin and its principal owner, Adam Lee Lawinger (Lawinger) D.O.B. 2/7/78, also of Blue River, Wisconsin. An Information filed on November 9, 2005, in U.S. District Court, Madison, Wisconsin, alleges that Lawinger, through BRO, provided commercial guided white-tailed deer and wild

turkey hunts on land owned and leased by Lawinger and by an unindicted co-conspirator in Richland and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin.

The federal Information alleges that Lawinger and an unindicted co-conspirator sold guided deer and turkey hunts to out of state hunters and, that in connection with these hunts, violated numerous Wisconsin laws including: (1) knowingly permitting hunters to kill deer and turkeys without licenses; (2) directing hunters not to kill female deer in "Earn-A-Buck" zones; (3) repeatedly using female deer carcasses to register multiple buck deer killed by BRO hunters; (4) baiting deer within the chronic wasting disease control zones; (5) shining and shooting deer at night; and (6) allowing hunters to kill turkeys with a .22 rifle. As described below and in the attached lists, state charges have been filed against 42 hunters from Texas, Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, ~~Nebraska~~ Investigation 6 South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Randy J. Stark, Chief Warden, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated, "Our deer and turkey wildlife resources are important to Wisconsin's tradition, culture, and economy. When persons choose to ignore and violate regulations put in place to protect those resources, in order to satisfy a trophy obsession or to illegally profit from those public resources, we take that seriously. This case would not have been possible without cooperation between the Wisconsin DNR investigative wardens, local field wardens, many U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents throughout the United States and the prosecution offices."

#### Iowa County State Charges

Twenty-five hunters have been charged in Iowa County, Wisconsin. (See

attached list of Iowa County defendants). Iowa County District Attorney Erik Peterson stated, "As Wisconsin's traditional deer season approaches, the message to all hunters is clear. If you violate the law you will be held accountable."

#### Richland County Charges

Twenty hunters have been charged in Richland County, Wisconsin. (See attached list of Richland County defendants). Richland County District Attorney Andrew Sharp stated, "These regulations are important to preserve and protect our natural resources. The hard work and cooperation put into this nation-wide investigation show that we take our responsibility to enforce these laws very seriously."

#### Federal Charges

United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott filed a two-count Information against Lawinger. In Count 1, Lawinger faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for conspiring to sell wildlife, deer and turkey, with values exceeding \$350, that were taken in violation of Wisconsin law and that were later transported in interstate commerce. In Count 2, Lawinger faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for selling wildlife, namely, two trophy white-tailed bucks each worth more than \$350, that were later transported in interstate commerce from Wisconsin to California, knowing that two California hunters had taken these deer in violation of Wisconsin law.

Three other hunters, Tod Moore, D.O.B. 10/8/64, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Jeff Godfrey, D.O.B. 12/15/62, of Lillian, Alabama and Thomas Shea, D.O.B. 10/28/62, of Panama City Beach, Florida, have been charged in the Western

District of Wisconsin with purchasing and transporting in interstate commerce wildlife - trophy white tailed deer -- each worth more than \$350, that they took in violation of Wisconsin law. Moore, Shea, and Godfrey each face maximum penalties of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott stated that "This case illustrates the effectiveness of State and Federal officers working in partnership to enforce the law. The Wisconsin conservation laws at issue here -- deer tagging and registration requirements, prohibitions against shining and baiting, hunting hour restrictions, and license requirements -- exist to protect both the public resources and the public health. Here, state and federal law enforcement officers have combined forces to protect these resources, reaching well beyond Wisconsin's borders to hold hunters accused of breaking these laws accountable."

Prosecution of the federal cases have been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

#### Press Conference

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the District Attorneys for Iowa and Richland Counties will hold a press conference at the National Guard Armory, 1350 Peebles Drive, Richland Center, Wisconsin at 12 noon on Thursday, November 10, 2005.

## Iowa County Defendants Project Brother

Name	Address	Charges
Antillon, Daniel	Fontana, CA	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Transport illegal deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> </ul>
Barnes, David	Pensacola, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a permit</li> <li>• Possess or transport untagged turkey</li> </ul>
Becker, Robert	Eden Prairie, MN	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt turkeys by means other than shotgun or bow</li> <li>• Fail to attach /validate turkey tag</li> <li>• Possess or transport untagged turkey</li> <li>• Fail to register wild turkey</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey in the wrong zone</li> </ul>
Bowen, Albert	Cantonment, FL	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer without a license</li> <li>• Transport uncased firearm on vehicle</li> </ul>
Camping, Jeremiah	Chino, CA	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Transport illegal deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> </ul>
Cavaliere, Mike	Pensacola, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer without a license</li> </ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer without a license</li> </ul>
Dartez, Robert	Lafayette, LA	2003

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Edwards, Ronald	Manteno, IL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess untagged deer</li> <li>• Transport untagged deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> </ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Foster, Dirk	Pace, FL	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Provide incorrect information to the Department</li> </ul>
Godfrey, Ernest G.	Pensacola, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul> 2005 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt wild turkey during the closed season</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license</li> <li>• Transport/possess untagged turkey</li> </ul>
Godfrey, Gregory	Pensacola, FL	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Hach, Lyle	Middleton, WI	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit juvenile under 12 to hunt*</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit*</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp*</li> <li>• Possess/transport untagged turkey*</li> </ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit juvenile under 12 to hunt*</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit*</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp*</li> <li>• Hunt turkeys by means other than shotgun/bow*</li> </ul>

		* Party to the violation
Lacoste, Stephen S.	Pace, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</li> <li>• Possess/transport untagged turkey</li> </ul>
Lopez, Gabriel	Glendora, CA	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Transport illegal deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> </ul>
Mihalak, Douglas	York, PA	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Transport illegal deer</li> </ul> 2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Possession of illegal deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> </ul>
Naar, Barron	Pensacola, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Phillips, Samuel	Panama City, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Pittman, Bradford	Pensacola, FL	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Provide incorrect information to Department</li> </ul> 2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</li> <li>• Hunt wild turkey during the closed season</li> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession of illegal deer</li> <li>• Fail to register deer</li> </ul>
Porter, Stephen M.	Pensacola, FL	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Provide incorrect information to Department</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> </ul>
Quina, John	Cantonment, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Provide incorrect information to Department</li> </ul>
Rojas, Cleophas	Barataria, LA	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Stafford, Eric Todd	Cantonment, FL	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Possess untagged deer</li> </ul> 2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> </ul>
Tyner, Justin	Pace, FL	2004 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Possess untagged deer</li> </ul>
Wallace, Riley R.	Gulf Breeze, FL	2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> <li>• Provide incorrect information to Department</li> </ul>
Yarnell, Robert	Cantonment, FL	2003 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt deer with improper license</li> <li>• Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possess untagged deer</li> </ul>

## Richland County Defendants Project Brother

Name	Address	Charges
Andrade, Tony	Visalia, CA	2004 Fail to display backtag Transport uncased bow in vehicle
Bolen, Nicholas	Ramona, CA	2004 Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag Hunt deer with improper license Possession of untagged deer Fail to register deer Transport uncased bow in vehicle Hunt deer over bait
Culton, Joseph	Hemet, CA	2004 Transport uncased firearm in vehicle
Daniel, Rod	Monrovia, CA	2005 Hunt deer during the closed season Hunt deer over bait
Godfrey, Ernest G.	Pensacola, FL	2003 Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp Transport/possess untagged turkey Failure to make effort to retrieve downed game 2005 Hunt wild turkey during the closed season Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit Hunt wild turkey without a license Transport/possess untagged turkey
Hardy, Joseph	Cantonment, FL	2005 Hunt deer during the closed season Hunt deer without a license Hunt deer over bait

Herndon, Eric	El Cajon, CA	2004	<p>Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</p> <p>Hunt deer with improper license</p> <p>Possession of untagged deer</p> <p>Transport uncased bow in vehicle</p>
Herrington, Dennis	El Cajon, CA	2004	<p>Hunt deer with improper license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p> <p>Transport uncased bow in vehicle</p>
		2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</p> <p>Hunt deer with aid of artificial light</p> <p>Possess firearm while shining deer</p> <p>Possess loaded firearm in vehicle</p>
Hill, William F.	Fairfield, TX	2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p>
Hood, Roland	Exeter, CA	2004	<p>Transport uncased bow in vehicle</p> <p>Fail to display backtag</p>
Knieriem, Joseph	Citrus Heights, CA	2004	<p>Hunt deer with improper license</p> <p>Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag</p> <p>Possession of untagged deer</p>
Lacoste, Stephen S.	Pace, FL	2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p> <p>Transport uncased firearm in vehicle</p>

McKie, Mitchell	Spearfish, SD	2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</p> <p>Hunt deer with aid of artificial light</p> <p>Possess firearm while shining deer</p> <p>Possess loaded firearm in vehicle</p>
McNesby, Ronald	Pensacola, FL	2005	<p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p>
Morgan, David W.	El Cajon, CA	2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</p> <p>Hunt deer with aid of artificial light</p> <p>Possess firearm while shining deer</p> <p>Possess loaded firearm in vehicle</p>
Pittman, Bradford	Pensacola, FL	2005	<p>Hunt deer during the closed season</p> <p>Hunt deer without a license</p> <p>Hunt deer over bait</p>
Porter, Michael S.	Cantonment, FL	2002	<p>Hunt wild turkey without a valid permit</p> <p>Hunt wild turkey without a license/stamp</p>

Schwab, Joseph	Apopka, FL	2002	Hunt deer without a license Hunt deer with improper license Possession of untagged deer Fail to register deer Guide without a license Place bait/feed for deer
		2003	Guide without a license Place bait/feed for deer
		2004	Hunt deer over bait Provide incorrect information to the Department Hunt deer by means other than shotgun/bow Guide without a license
Weggesser, Robert	Ridgecrest, CA	2004	Hunt deer over bait Hunt deer with improper license Fail to immediately attach deer carcass tag Possession of untagged deer Fail to register deer
Whitehead, David M.	Pensacola, FL	2005	Hunt deer during the closed season Hunt deer over bait

# # # #